

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

PRESS RELEASE  
TUESDAY A.M., MAY 10, 1960

The Committee on Un-American Activities today released the testimony of Colonel Frantisek Tisler, former Military and Air Attache, at the Czechoslovakian Embassy at Washington, who revealed widespread communist espionage operations in the United States via the Iron Curtain Embassies and the international organization.

Testifying "at a time and place which cannot be revealed on the record," Colonel Tisler, who defected from the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Washington, D. C., this past summer, stated that his mission as Military Attache at the Czechoslovak Embassy "called for me to attempt to personally recruit American citizens to act as agents and, in their agent capacities, to furnish me with intelligence on classified materials related to United States military developments."

He testified: "The officers of my staff were also engaged in similar operations, although not all of them used the cover of the military attache's office. As the military and air attache I had office facilities in the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington, D. C., and these office facilities were used to house my records and equipment, which I used for clandestine intelligence purposes. This means that the Czechoslovak Embassy was used to house an intelligence residence, which was engaged in activities which were inimical to the best interests of the United States Government."

Continuing, Colonel Tisler stated: "The Military Intelligence Residentura in the United States during the period August 1955 to July 1959 generally consisted of five officers. Four officers were assigned to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington, D. C., and one officer was assigned to the permanent Czechoslovak delegation to the United Nations. I was responsible for supervising the activities of all of these officers. Of this total number, two officers used the cover of the military attache's office, whereas one officer used the cover of the commercial attache's section of the Czechoslovak Embassy and two officers used the cover of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

"From August 1955 to July 1959," Colonel Tisler stated, "approximately 45 percent of the personnel at the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington, D. C., and of the Czechoslovak delegation to the United Nations in New York was engaged in some type of intelligence activity while in this country."

Colonel Tisler stated that the Czechoslovak Government transferred funds to aid in the defense of Anton Krchmarek, an American Communist of Czech origin, who was on trail under the Smith Act in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Krchmarek," Tisler continued, "met various members of the embassy staff on various occasions and furnished them with information on a wide variety of topics. As an example, Krchmarek met Ambassador Petrzelka in New York, during August 1958, and at this meeting Krchmarek told Petrzelka that Krchmarek had recently been made a member of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the United States of America. At this meeting, Krchmarek informed Petrzelka as to the trends and developments which were taking place within the Communist Party of the United States of America. This information was subsequently relayed by Petrzelka to the International Section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia."

Krchmarek received \$3,000 for living expenses and propaganda activities via the Czechoslovakian Embassy on orders from Prague, Colonel Tisler stated.

With reference to Charles Musil, another American citizen, Colonel Tisler stated: "Charles Musil was, or even still may be, the editor of a Czech-language newspaper which is published in Chicago, Illinois, under the title, Nova Doba. In December 1955, the Czechoslovak Ministry of

-2-

Foreign Affairs requested that the Czech Embassy in Washington, D. C., offer advice as to whether the Czechoslovak Foreign Institute should establish direct contact with Musil in order that this institute could send Musil propaganda material which they wanted to appear in Nova Doba. I don't know what the results of this correspondence were, but I am aware of the fact that the Nova Doba newspaper is Communist-dominated and generally follows the line of the international Communist movement. I also recall that in November 1956 the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington, D. C., advised the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague that Musil had been accused by United States authorities as being a member of the Communist Party of the United States."

"In January 1956, Musil had several meetings with Ambassador Petrzelka and, during the course of these meetings, furnished the Ambassador with information related to Krchmarek's status and difficulties. In this period Ambassador Petrzelka used Musil as an intermediary between himself and Krchmarek. The use of Musil as an intermediary seems to have its origins in the fact that, when Ambassador Petrzelka talked to Soviet Ambassador Zarubin in January and February 1954 regarding Ambassador Petrzelka's contacts with Krchmarek and the Communist Party of the United States, Soviet Ambassador Zarubin recommended that in view of the likely harmful repercussions which could develop if the Krchmarek trial revealed that Krchmarek was in direct contact with members of the Czechoslovak Embassy, it was recommended that this contact be handled via intermediaries. In this connection Zarubin told Ambassador Petrzelka that the Soviets never maintained direct contact with members of the Communist Party of the United States, because the Soviets wanted to avoid any embarrassment."

Congressman Francis E. Walter (D-Penn.) today issued the following statement from Naples, Italy, where he is attending an international migration conference:

"The Tisler testimony confirms and reiterates the overwhelming evidence of widespread Communist espionage on American soil, conducted under the guise of legitimate diplomatic activity. The shooting down of the United States reconnaissance plane over the Soviet Union must not distract the attention of the world from the wholesale espionage sabotage and propaganda operations conducted by the Communists in every country of the free world.

"Let us never forget that the International Communist empire is at total war - with the United States as its principal target."

Both Anton Krchmarek and Charles Musil are under subpoena to appear before the Committee on Thursday, May 26, 1960, it was announced today.

There are attached hereto brief biographical sketches of Anton Krchmarek and Charles Musil.

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ANTHONY KRCHMAREK

Anthony Krchmarek was born on January 20, 1898, at Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Krchmarek is a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, a member of the National Steel Commission of the Communist Party, and, as chairman of the Ohio State Communist Party, the only paid Communist Party functionary in the Ohio District.

Krchmarek's Communist Party membership dates back to the early 1930s. Between 1933 and 1935, he was section organizer of the Southeast Section of the Communist Party in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1944, he was elected chairman of the Ohio State Committee of the Communist Political Association. In addition, he has been chairman of the Ohio Valley Communist Party, county chairman of the Communist Party, Cleveland, Ohio, and state legislative and state educational director of the Communist Party.

In November 1953, Krchmarek was arrested for violation of the Smith Act and in February 1956 was sentenced by the U. S. District Court in Cleveland, Ohio, to five years' imprisonment for conspiracy to overthrow the Government of the United States by force and violence. A new trial was ordered and the case eventually dropped in August 1959, due to the requirements set forth by the Supreme Court in the Yates case.

CHARLES MUSIL

Charles Musil was born in Czechoslovakia on December 19, 1900; entered the United States on July 3, 1921; and was naturalized on September 1, 1927.

Musil has been identified as a member of the Communist Party by several witnesses in testimony before the Committee on Un-American Activities, the most recent identification being by John Lautner on November 13, 1956. This and other testimony documents Musil as a long-time Communist Party functionary, having held the position of treasurer of a party unit in 1929 and membership on the Nationality Committee in the 1950s. In addition, he has held leadership positions in many Communist front organizations, including the position of treasurer of the New York City Chapter of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

In an appearance before the Committee on November 13, 1956, Musil repeatedly invoked the Fifth Amendment in response to questions intended to elicit information respecting his activities on behalf of the Communist Party and its front organizations.

In a statement of ownership filed with the Post Office Department on October 2, 1959, Musil was listed as editor of the Czechoslovakian-language newspaper Nova Doba ("New Era"). This newspaper, which is referred to in the attached consultation as an instrument of Czechoslovakian Communist propaganda, is published by the Nova Doba Publishing Association, 1510 West 18th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied